



MATTHEW G. BEVIN
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2019-1223
December 6, 2019

PARDON & COMMUTATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

WHEREAS, Brett Dustin Whittaker was convicted in Lincoln County in 2011 of two counts of murder, and in Madison County in 2006 of assault; and

WHEREAS, Brett Whittaker acted in a criminally negligent manner a decade ago and his actions resulted in the death of two innocent people. There is no possible sentence that can atone for what has been lost. The purpose of incarceration is to, as best society is able, provide both justice and rehabilitation. Both are desired and essential for the successful continuance of civil society. No duration of time can provide full payment for the taking of an innocent life; and

WHEREAS, what then about rehabilitation? Brett Whittaker has utilized the past nine years in prison to transform his life spiritually, emotionally and psychologically. In this regard, he embodies the best of what society would hope for prison to do for an inmate. He is a new man ready to return to his community; and

WHEREAS, Will he, his children, his community or the family and friends of the victims be better off if Brett Whittaker remains in prison? Because no lives are made better, and some will undoubtedly be made worse, if Mr. Whittaker's release date occurs when he is in his 40's rather than in his 30's; and

WHEREAS, with his new lease on life, Mr. Whittaker incurs a heavy responsibility to ensure that every single day is lived in a manner that serves others and honors the memories of the innocent lives lost because of his actions. I am confident that with God's help, he will do so:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew G. Bevin, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in consideration of the foregoing, and by the virtue of the authority vested in me by Sections 77, 145, and 150 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby commute the sentence of Brett Dustin Whittaker to time served and simultaneously grant him a full and unconditional pardon and return to him all rights and privileges of a citizen of this Commonwealth.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Frankfort, this
6th day of December, in the year of our Lord Two
Thousand and Nineteen and in the year of the
Commonwealth the Two Hundred Twenty Eighth.


MATTHEW G. BEVIN, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky


ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
Secretary of State

RECEIVED AND FILED

DATE 12-7-19

ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY Wen